

**USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES
AMONG STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS IN THE
DISTRICT OF KUBANG PASU, KEDAH:
ATTITUDES AND SKILLS**

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**UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
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**USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES AMONG STUDENTS IN
SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT OF KUBANG PASU, KEDAH:
ATTITUDES AND SKILLS**

**A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree
Master of Science (Educational Management),
Universiti Utara Malaysia**

**by
Tengku Faekah binti Tengku Ariffin**

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ABSTRACT (BAHASA MALAYSIA)

Mengembangkan dan mengekalkan sikap positif terhadap teknologi komputer adalah amat kritikal bagi memastikan kejayaan sesuatu programme literasi komputer. Pemahaman tentang faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi sikap terhadap komputer akan membantu para pendidik dalam usaha mereka untuk menanamkan sikap positif ini di kalangan pelajar agar mereka dapat mempelajari kemahiran berkomputer.

Kajian ini mengenalpasti status penggunaan komputer di kalangan pelajar dalam Daerah Kubang Pasu, Kedah, sikap pelajar tersebut terhadap teknologi komputer dan tahap kemahiran mereka dalam menggunakan komputer. Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi sikap dan kemahiran pelajar, iaitu faktor jantina, aliran pengajian, kekerapan penggunaan komputer, pengalaman menggunakan komputer dan pemilihan komputer di rumah juga dikaji. Maklumat untuk kajian ini diperolehi melalui soal selidik yang telah dijalankan ke atas 556 orang pelajar dalam Daerah Kubang Pasu, Kedah.

Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa secara keseluruhannya, pelajar mempunyai sikap yang positif terhadap komputer, tetapi agak rendah tahap kemahiran berkomputernya. Pembolehubah-pembolehubah bagi setiap konstruk yang membina sikap terhadap komputer (*keselesaan/keimbangan, keseronokan, keyakinan dan rasa kepentingan*) adalah berhubungan secara signifikan dengan pembolehubah kemahiran berkomputer. Kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa faktor yang menjadi penentu utama terhadap sikap dan kemahiran komputer adalah faktor pengalaman menggunakan komputer.

Berdasarkan dapatan kajian ini, beberapa cadangan dikemukakan untuk tujuan memperkukuhkan lagi sikap positif yang sedia ada dan mengembangkan kemahiran berkomputer di kalangan pelajar.

ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)

The development and maintenance of positive attitudes towards computers are crucial for the success of any computer literacy programme. Understanding the factors that affect attitudes towards computers will help educators to foster positive attitudes so that learners will obtain valuable computer skills.

This study examines the status of computer use among the students in the District of Kubang Pasu, Kedah, students' attitudes towards computer technologies and their level of skills. Factors affecting their attitudes and skills, namely, gender, academic stream and frequency of use, experience in using computers and home computer ownership were also studied. The information for this study was obtained by means of a questionnaire, which was distributed to a total of 556 students in the District of Kubang Pasu, Kedah.

The results of this study showed that students generally have positive attitudes towards computers, but quite a low level of skills in computing. The variables of each construct of attitudes (*comfort/anxiety, liking, confidence* and *perceived usefulness*) are correlated with the variable computer skills. The study also revealed that there are significant differences in gender, academic stream and frequency of use, experience in using computers and home computer ownership. In addition, this study also noted that the strongest predictor for computer attitudes and skills is computer experience.

Based on the results of this study, recommendations are offered for the reinforcement of the existing positive attitudes towards computers and the development of computing skills among students.

DEDICATION

This thesis is especially dedicated to my dear husband, Engku Muhammad Nazri bin Engku Abu Bakar, who has always been supportive and understanding, and my three children, Engku Nur Amalina, Engku Afif Akramin and Engku Adlina Batrisyia, my sources of joy and inspiration.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background

The new millennium is now witnessing countries competing for not only the natural resources, but also for information resources and knowledge, as engines of productivity and economic growth. According to Bill Gates (1995), the world is now moving towards a revolution, through the waves of technology, which will change the way people shop, work, communicate and learn. Therefore, the use of computer technologies in education should be taken into serious consideration.

Malaysians, as well as the other nations, should be willing to adjust to the changing scenario associated with rapid modernisation, and to prepare themselves towards becoming an information and technologically developed nation by the year 2020. The Malaysian Government has recognized that the ability of students to continually master new technologies will have critical impact on the country's future global competitiveness. Thus, it has included Information Technology (IT) education in its national agenda through such initiatives as the smart schools programme under the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project. Under the programme, initially, 90 schools are plugged into a more competitive and interconnected world so as to enable the students to explore knowledge and virtual experience. It is estimated that by the early of this new millennium, some 300,000 students in 500 schools will also join this exciting venture (Chan Yuen Fook, 1999). The Malaysian Chief Director of Education himself stated that the government is now in the process of equipping a total of 2,400 schools with computer

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only

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